

Study group blasts Harvard on CIA funding

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NEW ORLEANS - The Middle East Studies Association of North America voted overwhelmingly yesterday to condemn Harvard University for allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to provide funds for a professor's research.

The association, which convened in New Orleans Friday, voted 193-to-8 to "deplore Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies" for violating a 1982 resolution that calls for disclosure of funding sources.

"We are not condemning Harvard," association president Kemal H. Karpat said before the vote. "We are merely condemning the violation of a principle which represents the voice of all of the people in this country who represent Middle Eastern studies."

Karpat, a professor at the University of Wisconsin, said he doesn't know how Harvard will respond to the resolution, but added, "I don't know that they can remain insensitive to a reaction from a group representing what they profess to care about."

The controversy began in October, when it was disclosed that Nadav Safran, the director of Harvard's Center for Middle East Studies, had accepted about \$150,000 from the CIA.

The money included \$45,700 for a two-day conference on Islamic fundamentalism in October and \$107,430 to research and write a book on Saudi Arabia.

At the time, Safran argued that although Harvard rules require professors to report outside grants, he didn't have to because he accepted them as an individual and not as a faculty member.

The university allowed Safran to conduct the Islamic conference last month, but only after he agreed to tell participants of the source of its funding. Several participants boycotted the event and three of Safran's colleagues called for his resignation.